

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF PUERTO RICO
Office of the Commissioner
San Juan

Circular Letter No. 44.
October 22, 1912.

To Supervising Principals.

Gentlemen:-

Please call the attention of all teachers under your supervision to Section 52 (paragraph 91) of the compiled School Laws of 1911, and to that part of paragraph 228 bearing on the same subject; also, to the Sections of the Civil Service Law quoted in the enclosure to this letter.

No political privileges other than those expressly mentioned in the School Laws are accorded to the teachers and any violation of the same will result in the immediate cancellation of the licenses of the offending persons.

Already it has been found necessary to cancel the license of three teachers: one for general political activity, and two for permitting their names to appear on the electoral tickets as candidates for political offices.

While the Department will not countenance any political activity whatsoever on the part of teachers, they may always expect complete support in the lawful discharge of their duties as teachers and government employees.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) E. M. Bainter
Commissioner of Education

AKA
Encl.

Encl. to C. L. No. 44.

Extracts from Civil Service Law.

Section 14.-That no person in the Civil Service of Porto Rico shall be under obligations to contribute to a political fund or to render a political service, or to be removed or otherwise prejudiced for refusing to do so. Any person soliciting political contributions from public officers or employees shall be subject to a penalty of not exceeding five hundred dollars or to imprisonment not exceeding six months, or both.

Section 15.-That no person in the Civil Service of Porto Rico shall use his official authority or official influence to coerce the political action of any other person or body, or to influence elections or control the results thereof.

Section 16.-That no officer or employee in the Civil Service of Porto Rico shall discharge, or promote, or degrade, or in any manner change the official rank or compensation of any other officer or employee, or promise or threaten so to do, for giving or withholding, or neglecting to make any contribution of money or other valuable thing for any political purpose whatever.

Section 17.-That the violation by any person in the Civil Service of Porto Rico of any of the provisions of this Act or of the rules made thereunder shall be considered good cause for the removal of such person from the service.